

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ELAB, NU, PORG

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR AN INTER-AMERICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION

REF: MANAGUA 5465 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER THREE GROUPS REPRESENTING LABOR, BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENTS, RESPECTIVELY, MET IN WASHINGTON TO CONSIDER, INTER ALIA, PREPARATIONS FOR THE SIXTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LABOR SCHEDULED FOR LIMA IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1978. ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF EACH GROUP CONCERNED A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CREATION OF A SPECIALIZED TRIPARTITE INTER-AMERICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION. THE AFL-CIO AND THE U.S. SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LABOR MINISTRIES GROUPS. IF A FEASIBILITY STUDY IS
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MADE, WE WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP A U.S. POSITION ON ITS CONCLUSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TRADE UNION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEPCOSATE) WAS HELD OCTOBER 26-28. NINE COUNTRIES ATTENDED WITH THE AFL-CIO REPRESENTING U.S. LABOR.

TULIO CUEVAS OF COLOMBIA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT.
CEPCOSATE SAID THAT THE OAS HAS IN EFFECT FAILED TO

FULFILL THE MANDATE OF MEMBER STATES TO INTENSIFY AND
INCREASE ITS ACTIVITIES CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE LABOR FIELD, AND REQUESTED THE OAS GENERAL
SECRETARIAT TO CONTACT HIGH-LEVEL, EXPERIENCED EXPERTS
TO PREPARE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICERS OF THE
ADVISORY BODIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF LABOR, A STUDY TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A SPECIALIZED AUTONOMOUS, TRIPARTITE INTER-AMERICAN
ORGANIZATION TO BE CALLED THE LABOR ORGANIZATION FOR
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (OTAC).

3. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BUSINESS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR MATTERS
(CEPCEATAL) WAS HELD NOVEMBER 1-2. EIGHT COUNTRIES
AND A CARIBBEAN DELEGATE ATTENDED WITH THE U.S. CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE REPRESENTING U.S. BUSINESS. ALEJANDRO
DESMASION OF PERU WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN. CEPCEATAL
SAID THAT THE OAS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HAD BEEN
SERIOUSLY LIMITED BY INSUFFICIENT FUNDS, AND JOINED
THE REQUEST FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CREATION
OF A SPECIALIZED INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION, BASED
ON TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATION, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO
THE PRESENT SYSTEM. THE U.S. AND BRAZIL ABSTAINED ON
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THIS RECOMMENDATION.

4. THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON LABOR MATTERS (COTPAL) WAS HELD NOVEMBER 8-10.
REPRESENTATIVES FROM MINISTRIES OF LABOR OF 18 COUNTRIES
ATTENDED WITH HOWARD SAMUEL, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LEADING THE U.S. DELEGATION. ANTONIO HERNANDEZ BRENES
OF COSTA RICA IS THE CHAIRMAN. COTPAL CITED "ITS DIS-
APPROVAL OF THE LACK OF SUPPORT ON THE PART OF THE OAS
FOR THE ACTIVITIES IN THE LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS
FIELD AND ITS CONSEQUENT SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE
FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN LABOR SYSTEM,"
AND REQUESTED MINISTERS OF LABOR TO ADVISE THE OAS
SECRETARY GENERAL WITHIN TWO MONTHS WHETHER THEY RECOMMEND
THE CARRYING OUT OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY AS RECOMMENDED
BY THE OTHER GROUPS, AND, IF SO, TO SPECIFY THE TERMS
OF REFERENCE AND THE ACTION OF THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT
SHOULD TAKE, AND FINALLY TO INDICATE WHETHER SUCH A
STUDY SHOULD BE PRESENTED AS A WORKING DOCUMENT TO THE
FORTHCOMING LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

5. THE U.S. SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF COTPAL.
THE ADEQUACY OF THE OAS LABOR PROGRAM AND THE DESIRAB-
ILITY OF AN INTER-AMERICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION WILL THUS
BE DECIDED AT A LATER DATE. VANCE

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